

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 18, 2007**

Members Present: Ennis, Carroll, Corsa, Endres, Evans, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Lardizzone, Newstadt, Smith, Spitzfaden, Thompson and Wasson

Members Excused: Timberman

Staff Present: Davila and Reid

Guests: Jackie Sullivan (Davis Motor Sports), Al Carter and Christopher Portante (SOS), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Joseph G. Startt, Jr. and Terry Baker (VVA), John Dill (Warrant Officers Association), Ron Sarg (MOAA) and Diana Kitson

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Ennis opened the meeting by introducing the guests.

Ms. Sullivan explained that she is working as a volunteer for Davis Motor Sports and the race car drivers would like to honor military members at the racetracks. They recently honored a severely injured soldier in November. It was such a success they decided that they would like to start honoring military soldiers at every race; at each of the racetracks. She is asking for help in locating soldiers that they could honor.

Mr. Startt asked for financial support in building a new Vietnam Veterans Memorial behind the Kent County building in Dover.

Mr. Dill reported that his Chapter is still on track for the gazebo that is being built for the Veterans Home and provided a brief description of their progress.

Chairman Ennis introduced Robert Corsa, a new Commission member representing the Vietnam Veterans of America.

**MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,  
SECONDED BY CARROLL, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Davila reported that Smith & Company is meeting with the Northern Cemetery staff to discuss the enhancements. They have met with the National Cemetery Administration and they will support the 10-year expansion project at the Southern Cemetery. He explained that the Cemetery is priority one and detailed some of the logistics involved in the proposed expansion.

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Mr. Reid reported on the Veterans Home admissions, as well as employment, human resource matters, and outreach efforts. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Carroll reported that there is currently \$101,687.77 in the Delaware Veterans Home Fund account and \$484,511.59 in the Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home account. The Health and Human Services Committee met and reworked the volunteer application and submitted it to the Veterans Home Administrator. He also reported that other policies and procedures have been edited and forwarded to the Secretary of State for approval. Commissioner Carroll also spoke briefly about the Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation.

## **PERSONNEL**

Commissioner Lardizzone reported that they hired an individual for the Conservation Tech II position at the Northern Cemetery.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Corsa (VVA) – Reported that Chapter 848 is in the process of erecting a monument for Kent County Vietnam veterans that made the ultimate sacrifice. There will be a traditional event at Brandywine Park on Christmas Eve to honor all fallen Vietnam veterans statewide. Also, a wreath laying ceremony will take place on Christmas Eve at the Sussex County Memorial.

Newstadt (JWV) – Reported that the annual JWV installation and state luncheon will be held on May 25, 2008.

Harden (WAVES) – Their unit recently had a meeting and is now working on their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Wasson (DELVETS) – Reported that last Saturday they had their annual dinner / dance.

Ennis (KWVA) – They recently had their Executive Committee meeting at the Sheraton, followed by their annual holiday dinner.

Thompson (MCL) – The “Toys for Tots” program is done for the year.

Carroll (MOPH) – He and other Commissioners attended the Homes for Our Troops ceremony; which was well attended.

Lank (MOWW) – They had a Christmas party with the Retired Officers Association at the Christiana Hilton.

Spitzfaden (MOAA) - He thanked everyone for their “get-well” wishes while he was sick.

Evans (American Legion) – He provided information about the Warrior Weekend program. They pick up service members from the Walter Reed Medical Center and take them out to places at no cost to them.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Corsa suggested that there be something put in *The Centurion* reminding residents about the check off for the Veterans Home on their taxes. He also mentioned that the Sussex County Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is scheduled to open April 1, 2008. Commissioner

Spitzfaden inquired as to when the CD for donations to the Veterans Home would be updated and Mr. Davila indicated that they are currently working on it.

#### **ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Commissioner Newstadt reported that the Commission would be getting an invitation to the join the folks up on the reviewing stand for the Elsmere Christmas Parade. He asked that the Commission make it a resolution to clear up exactly what their role is concerning the Veterans Home. Chairman Ennis stated that the Commission is just waiting for a date to meet with the legislators to clarify that issue.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:      JANUARY 22, 2008 (10:00 AM)**

**LOCATION:                                Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**